NIXON PLANS TO SPEAK OUT ON WATERGATE AFTER END OF THE CURRENT HEARINGS

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REPLY IS SLATED

But President Will Not Face Senate Inquiry or Grand Jury

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 2—President Nixon will speak out on charges that have been made against him in the Watergate case after the select Senate committee completes the current phase of its hearings, probably in September, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said today.

Mr. Ziegler emphasized that the President would have nothing to say publicly on the matter before then, that he will not appear before the committee or the investigating grand jury to answer the charges, that he will not submit a statement to the committee nor answer in writing or any other way questions put to him by the committee.

"As soon as this phase of the Watergate hearings is over, the President will speak to the matter in a way the President considers appropriate at that time," Mr. Ziegler said in response to questions about Mr. Nixon's reaction to charges made against him last week by the former White House counsel, John W. Dean 3d.

In Three Phases

The committee has indicated that its hearings will come in three phases. The first and current phase centers on the Watergate break-in and its cover-up. The two others will concern the collection and use of campaign money and the over-all use of dirty tricks or political espionage.

Mr. Dean, in five days of testimony, charged the President with participating in the White House cover-up of the bugging and burglary of Democratic National Headquarters in June, 1972, and of offering executive clemency to a convicted Watergate conspirator, E. Howard Hunt Jr., in return for his silence.

Stands on May 22 Statement

Mr. Ziegler said that despite the seriousness of the Dean charges, the White House did not want the Presidential defense to "apply to one witness." "The hearings are not over. A lot of people have not been heard from," he explained.

In the meantime, Mr. Ziegler said, the President's statement of May 22, which conflicts sharply with the Dean charges, stands as Mr. Nixon's official position.

In his May 22 statement, President Nixon said he was innocent of any personal involvement in the Watergate cover-up but that he had ordered officials not to let national security matters be compromised by some aspects of the

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investigation. He said he knew of no White House involvement in the cover-up until March 21, a statement that was contradicted by Mr. Dean's testimony.

In its current phase, the Senate committee is still to hear from former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Presidential top aides, and others. Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman are expected to rebut at least ome aspects of the Dean testimony.

When they resigned on April 30, Mr. Nixon called them "two of the finest public servants" he had ever known, a statement that has not been retracted despite the fact they have been heavily implicated by several witneses in the case.

In explaining the President's unwillingness to respond directly to any Congressional or judicial body in connection with the case, Mr. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon still felt he had the responsibility as President to maintain the constitutional "separation of powers" by exercising independence of the other two branches.

At one point, he corrected a reporter who referred to the President's forthcoming statement or statements on Watergate as a response to the charges.

"It is not a response,' Mr. Ziegler said. Rather, the President will "address this matter," he said.

He said the President had not decided how to address the matter. However, he reported that Mr. Nixon would resume news conferences after the current Watergate phase of the hearings ends and could be expected to submit to questioning on any subject. He has not held a news conference since mid-March and Mr. Ziegler said he would not hold one while the current phase of the hearings was under way.

The President's spokesmen in the last few days have consistently pictured Mr. Nixon as aloof from the charges being made in Washington. Last week they said that a list of questions submitted by J. Fred Buzhardt, the White House special counsel, to Mr. Dean through Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, a member of the Committee, was "not the President's position."

Today, Mr. Ziegler was asked if a statement Mr. Buzhardt made in the interview in The Washington Post — that the President was not going to respond to "an admitted felon," meaning Mr. Dean—represent the President's position.

He replied that Mr. Buzhardt had made the statement on his authority as counsel to the President on Watergate matters but the President "was not aware in advance of the statement by Buzhardt."

Neither are Mr. Nixon's spokesmen commenting on testimony damaging to the White House. Mr. Ziegler was asked today if he still maintained that the reason the Federal Bureau of Investigation had at one time investigated Dan Schorr, a Columbia Broadcasting System correspondent, in 1971, was that the White House wanted to offer him a job.

Mr. Dean testified that Mr. Schorr had been investigated on White House orders because he was considered an enemy of the Administration and the story put out by Mr. Ziegler about employment possibilities was a lie fabricated by Frederic V. Malek, then a Presidential aide and now deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Ziegler said he hoped to discuss the matter at a later date but for now would abide by the White House rule to bar comment on any matters before the committee.

President Nixon has been here since June 22 and has not left the Presidential compound except to see off the Soviet leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev, at El Toro Marine Air Station on June 24. He has worked in seculsion except for brief ceremonial occasions.

Today, he appeared briefly before reporters and photographers on the lawn outside his office for the swearing in of James R. Schlesinger as Secretary of Defense. He was tanned and smiling as he ordered the Schlesinger children who were present to be brought into the pictures. After chatting briefly with Mr. Schlesinger and other officials, he returned to his office.